



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
Audit, Internal Control and Information Management

July 24, 2012

VIA EMAIL

Drone Watch
MuckRock News
DEPT MR 1543
PO Box 55819
Boston, MA 02205-5819
1543-66100357@requests.muckrock.com

Re: FOIA Request No. 2012-00432

Dear Drone Watch:

This letter is in regards to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated July 20, 2012, in which you requested documents which refer or relate to aerial drones, UAs, UAVs and UASs.

In your request letter, you seek a waiver of fees. Pursuant to procedures established in 15 CFR, Part 4.11(k), I will rely on the following factors in determining whether the statutory standard for granting a fee waiver has been met:

- 1) The subject of the requested records must concern identifiable operations or activities of the Federal Government.
- 2) The disclosable portions of the requested records must be meaningfully informative about Government operations or activities in order to be "likely to contribute" to and increase public understanding of those operations or activities.
- 3) The disclosure of the requested information must contribute to the understanding of a reasonably broad audience of persons interested in the subject, as opposed to the individual understanding of the requester. For example, tell us about publications or websites where the information will be posted.
- 4) The disclosure of the requested information is likely to contribute "significantly" to the public's understanding of Government operations or activities.
- 5) Whether the requester has a commercial interest that would be furthered by the requester.

- 6) Whether any identified commercial interest of the requester is sufficiently great, in comparison with the public interest in disclosure, such that the disclosure is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester.

After reviewing your request, I determined that your fee waiver justification did not provide us with the necessary information to make an informed decision as to whether or not to appropriately grant you a fee waiver.

If you would like further consideration of your fee waiver request, please explain in detail how disclosure of the records requested would satisfy the requirements for a fee waiver. A detailed fee waiver justification should cover all information described in your request.

Please reply to this letter by August 22, 2012. Otherwise your request will be processed under the "Media" fee category. If convenient, the justification may be sent via electronic mail to wendy.schumacher@noaa.gov with a copy to foia@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wendy Schumacher". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Wendy" being more prominent than the last name "Schumacher".

Wendy Schumacher
NOAA Freedom of Information Officer

CC: R. Donfor, OAR